

Climbing and Bouldering Risk Assessment

Activity: Climbing and Bouldering Activity Session

- What are the hazards?**
- Climbing holds coming loose
 - Trapping fingers in holds or bolt hangars
 - Scraping body on descent
 - Bouldering wall
 - Falling from height

Who is at risk? Staff, participants and members of the public

| What are the risks? | Existing safety measures/controls | Likelihood | Risk rating |
|--|--|------------|-------------|
| Climbing holds coming loose leading to falls by participants or injuries to the people below. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All holds are regularly inspected and if any start to come loose during sessions, this is noted and they are tightened up at the earliest opportunity. • Participants are always attached to safety systems, so that if a hold comes loose they will be supported in their harness. • There will be good communication with the instructor on session. • All participants wear helmets and nobody is directly beneath a climber, therefore should not be hit by a falling hold. | LOW | LOW |
| Trapping fingers in holds or bolt hangers causing entrapment, dismemberment or crush injuries. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warnings are given to participants- told not to use the bolt hangers as climbing holds • This is monitored by instructors to ensure that these instructions are adhered to. • All holds are monitored and regularly checked to ensure there are no sharp edges. • Loose items of jewellery, rings and clothing should be removed. | LOW | LOW |
| During the descent, the participant can scrape themselves on the wall or on climbing holds. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants are lowered under the control of qualified instructors. • Participants are briefed on good body positioning for descents. • If a participant has difficulty, their descent is slowed or stopped until they are in the correct position again. | LOW | LOW |
| Slipping and falling from the bouldering wall resulting in injury | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants are told to keep their feet below 1m above the ground (thus ensuring they are unable to climb on top, or over the wall) | LOW | LOW |

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|--|--|------------|------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climbing grips are set out so there is a big gap between hand and foot holds reducing the temptation to move their feet above the 1M line • Participant are briefed to step off the wall if they feel like they're going to fall • Participants will be supervised by an instructor or a responsible group leader that is prepared to enforce the rules and directly supervise the participant's bouldering. The instructor must feel confident that the leader will supervise the participants and the instructor will check on the bouldering throughout the session. • If it is the group leader doing the supervising, only the stand-alone Bouldering Wall can be used (not the bottom of the climbing tower). • Loose items of jewellery and clothing should be removed/secured, long hair tied back and items from pockets taken out. Rings should be removed. • Appropriate footwear should be worn, open toed or loose fitting shoes are not allowed | | |
| <p>Falling from height due to improper use of Gri Gri / belay device</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gri Gri used as illustrated in the most current operation manual from Petzl • Gri Gri operation must be under the control of the instructor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One hand on the inactive rope and ready to arrest a fall by pulling on the rope or ○ Back up knots tied regularly • Instructor must have a hand on the inactive rope during any lower offs. Before any descent, the instructor must ensure the participants full weight is loaded on to the rope. • If wet conditions, a Belay Plate can be used but this is not suitable for Bell Pull. • Belay Plates can be used by participants on skill based courses/training. Instructors must be in full control for descents (same as Gri Gri) and should be used as taught. | <p>LOW</p> | <p>LOW</p> |

Reference to other manuals assessments:

- Avon Tyrrell reference and training folder
- [UK Youth Health and Safety policy](#)
- Avon Tyrrell - Climbing and Abseiling Training Syllabus

When was the assessment reviewed and by whom?

- November 2018 Chief Instructor

Date of next review and to be done by whom?

- November 2019 Chief Instructor